REMARKS

Claims 1–38 are pending in the application.

Claims 1–36 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 7–10, 18, 20, 21, 24, 30 and 35–36 were amended herein. Claims 1, 7–9, 24, 29 and 35 were amended to correct a grammatical error (missing verb) therein. Claims 10 and 30 were amended to eliminate recitation of the pronoun "it" within the respective claim. Claim 20 was amended to correct a typographical error.

Claims 37–38 were added.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1–36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,327,565 to *Kuhn et al.* The rejection is respectfully traversed.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. MPEP § 2131 at p. 2100-70 (8th ed. rev. 1 February 2003).

Independent claims 1, 7–9, 24 and 35 each recite that the hybrid speech model is a weighted combination of speech models from the plurality of speech models. Similarly, independent claims 21 and 36 each recite that the modified version of at least one speech model is generated using a predefined weighting constraint. As taught in the specification, the hybrid model is derived from

the existing group of speech models using a weight vector assigning weights to each respective speech model within the group. Specification, page 20, line 18 through page 21, line 13. Such a feature is not found in the cited reference. *Kuhn et al* describes training a new speaker-dependent model by constructing a supervector from a linear combination of eigenvoices and estimating the linear combination of model coefficients (e.g., HMM parameters) that will comprise an adapted model for the new speaker. *Kuhn et al*, column 5, lines 27–57. *However*, Kuhn et al is silent as to weighting combinations of eigenvoices or model coefficients.

Claims 16 and 34 each recite that substantially the same weights as are employed to derive the hybrid speech model are also employed to derive a complex speech model based on the hybrid speech model. Such a feature is not found in the cited reference.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the § 102(e) rejection of Claims 1–36.

II. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant asserts that the remaining Claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.

If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *dvenglarik@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Davis Munck Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.

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Daniel E. Venglarik
Registration No. 39,409

P.O. Drawer 800889
Dallas, Texas 75380
(972) 628-3621 (direct dial)
(972) 628-3600 (main number)
(972) 628-3616 (fax)
E-mail: *dvenglarik@davismunck.com*